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Weekend



Ron Artest did a series of interviews Tuesday.

Hitting Back: Players union appeals NBA brawl suspensions as Artest buffs up his image | **12**

Human Traffic: D.C. aims to end modern-day slavery | **10**



Fine Finish: Viacom agrees to record \$3.5M indecency fine for Stern, others | **8**

ENTERTAINMENT

All Is Vanity: Yup, *Minnie Driver* is another of those singing actors. Also, Medeski, Martin & Wood; Turkey Trots; 'The Fever.'

>> **14-23**

Weekend PASS



Weather > Mild, Rainy



65 | 54

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 29

UKRAINE ELECTION | PEOPLE'S PROTEST



ORANGE ALERT: Supporters of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko wave flags during a rally in Kiev on Tuesday. About 200,000 Ukrainians massed to protest presidential election results they see as rigged by a pro-Moscow government. ♦ **Symbolic step:** Yushchenko claims victory | **Page 6**

CBS' Rather Stepping Down

NEW YORK | Dan Rather, the hard-charging embodiment of CBS News who saw his reputation damaged by an ill-fated report on President Bush's National Guard service, said Tuesday he will step down as "CBS Evening News" anchor in March after nearly a quarter-century in the job.

Rather, 73, will become a correspondent for both editions of "60 Minutes," saying he looked forward to "pouring my heart" into investigative reporting. John Roberts and Scott Pelley are frequently mentioned as in-house candidates to succeed him, but CBS News — a distant third in evening news ratings behind

NBC and ABC — also will look elsewhere.

Rather replaced broadcast legend Walter Cronkite in 1981. Rather, Tom Brokaw of NBC and Peter Jennings of ABC competed at the top ranks of network news for more than two decades. Brokaw leaves NBC's "Nightly News" next week.

A September "60 Minutes Wednesday" story about Bush's service that turned out to be based on allegedly forged documents forced Rather to fight for his professional life.

Independent investigators are looking into what went wrong with the story, and their report is considered imminent. **DAVID BAUDER (AP)**

DELIVERIES | Woof Wiedersehen A Fort Lauderdale, Fla., couple have finally been reunited with their dogs after airline workers confused breed with destination. The couple flew from San Francisco to Washington on Sunday, then caught a connecting flight



back to Florida. But baggage handlers misunderstood where their two dogs were headed and sent the German shepherds to Germany, WFTV-TV reported. The dogs were flown back from Frankfurt on Tuesday. **(EXPRESS) EyeOpeners | Page 2**

New Iraq Offensive Launched

5,000 troops tackle region plagued by Sunni insurgency

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Some 5,000 U.S. Marines, British troops and Iraqi forces kicked off a new offensive Tuesday aimed at clearing a swath of insurgent hotbeds across a cluster of dusty, small towns south of Baghdad.

The series of raids and house searches was the third large-scale military operation this month aimed at suppressing Iraq's Sunni Muslim insurgency ahead of crucial elections set for Jan. 30.

The assault aims to stem an increase of violence in an area that has been notorious for months as a danger zone. Car bombings, rocket attacks and ambushes have surged in recent weeks — likely in part due to guerrillas who slipped out of the militant stronghold of Fallujah, according to commanders.

Despite the series of offensives, violence continued unabated. Masked gunmen shot to death a Sunni cleric Tuesday in the second such attack against a member of the influential Association of Muslim Scholars, which has called for a boycott of the national elections.

The joint military operation kicked off with early morning raids in the town of Jabella, 50 miles south of Baghdad, as Iraqi and American troops swarmed into the region known as the "triangle of death."

At least 32 suspected insurgents were captured in the morning's raids, the U.S. military said. The assault follows the massive offensive against Fallujah, in which at least 54 U.S. troops were killed and 425 wounded. **TINI TRAN (AP)**



HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Express will not publish on Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We'll be back on Monday, Nov. 29.

eyeOpeners

COOL ART

Iceman Cometh



HERBERT PROEPER/AP

Sculptors whipped out chainsaws and carved figures out of huge ice blocks as they prepared Tuesday for the upcoming International Festival of Ice Sculptures — or “Ice World” — in Luebeck, Germany. Fifteen countries, with teams of two ice carvers each, will participate. The festival, with the theme “Fantasy in Ice,” starts Dec. 10 and ends Jan. 23. The event marks the first time the championship — now in its 20th year — will be held in Germany. The city’s tourism director said it will be the world’s largest indoor display of ice sculptures. (AP)

FAMILY PLANNING

The Kids Are All Right

India’s politicians can procreate without fear of losing their jobs, now that the country’s health ministry has withdrawn a bill barring anyone with more than two children from running for parliament or state legislatures. The

legislation was pending in parliament for more than a decade and was meant to encourage representatives to limit their families as an example to their constituents, the Hindustan Times reported Tuesday. India is on pace to overtake China as the world’s most populace country by 2050. (EXPRESS)

RESCUES

‘Flipper’ Stereotype Perpetuated

A group of New Zealanders found that swimming with dolphins can be life-saving. Rob Howes and three others were swimming in Whangarei on Oct. 30 when dolphins herded them by swimming tight circles around them. When Howes tried to break away, two of the dolphins pushed him back in, the New Zealand Press Association reported. He then spotted a 9-foot great white shark swimming toward the group. The dolphins surrounded them and protected them for 40



minutes until the shark went away, the swimmers said. Environmental group Orca Research said dolphins act similarly to protect their young from sharks. (EXPRESS)



MEDICINES

Take Two Bonbons And Call in the A.M.

Those suffering from colds might want to put down the Robitussin and pick up a candy bar. A component of chocolate may actually be a more effective cough medicine than traditional remedies, a new study suggests. Chocolate had none of the troubling side effects of opiate-based medication, said Peter Barnes, who led the study for Imperial College London. Volunteers were given theobromine, a constituent of cocoa; codeine, a cough suppressant; or a placebo, NewScientist reported. During the study, volunteers were told to inhale capsaicin — a derivative of chilli peppers — which induces coughing. Those given theobromine needed about one-third more capsaicin to produce coughing than those who took the codeine. (EXPRESS)




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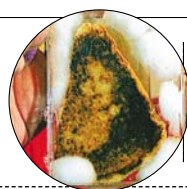
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ALL CREDIT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED!

FULLFILLING MEAL: A 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich advertised as bearing the image of the Virgin Mary sold Monday on eBay for \$28,000. Online casino GoldenPalace.com bought the half-sandwich, which has a bite taken out of it.



Nation

In Brief



Suspicions of a new case of mad cow disease had many U.S. farmers on edge.

WASHINGTON Follow-Up Tests Find No Sign of Mad Cow in Animal

No sign of mad cow disease was found in an animal the Agriculture Department had singled out for follow-up tests, officials said Tuesday. Initial screenings last week had raised the possibility of a new case of the disease in the United States. A more definitive test at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, came back negative, the officials said. (AP)

LAS VEGAS Ex-Sripper, Lover Cleared In Death Of Casino Heir

A former stripper and her lover were acquitted Tuesday of murdering casino heir Ted Binion, who prosecutors say was drugged and suffocated in a plot to steal a \$7 million cache of silver bars and coins he had buried in the desert. The jury deliberated over parts of four days before reaching its verdict in the case against Sandy Murphy and Rick Tabish. (AP)

Detainee Petitions Justices

Prisoner challenging Gitmo trials appeals directly to high court

WASHINGTON | Lawyers for an alleged al Qaeda member have filed an unusual appeal at the Supreme Court challenging the government's strategy in holding military trials for terror suspects in Cuba.

Earlier this month a federal judge blocked the first planned trial, and lawyers for the accused enemy combatant in that case are trying to bypass an appeals court

and get the issue before the high court immediately.

The Bush administration has defended its plans for military commission trials, resurrected from World War II, at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

An appeals court had agreed to hear the administration's appeal on a fast-track schedule, but the Supreme Court was asked late Monday to hear the case before a decision is reached by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Such direct appeals to the Supreme Court are rare.

The appeal filed on behalf of 34-year-old Yemeni Salim Ahmed Hamdan, Osama bin Laden's alleged driver, said that courts, alleged enemy combatants "and the world community stand to benefit from clear guidance as to how the United States may wage the legal war on terror in the future."

Hamdan's attorneys urged the Supreme Court's nine justices to decide by Dec. 3 whether to hear the latest case, which presents a broader question of government power in prosecuting wartime prisoners. GINA HOLLAND (AP)

Suspect Claims He Shot Back

Alleged gunman in Wis. hunting dispute says he returned fire

HAYWARD, WIS. | A Hmong immigrant suspected of killing six fellow deer hunters in the Wisconsin woods told investigators that he opened fire after they took a shot at him first and hurled racial slurs at him, according to court papers filed Tuesday.

A judge set bail at \$2.5 million for Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., who was jailed on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

The shootings occurred Sunday after Vang climbed into a tree stand on private property and got into a confrontation with the landowner and members of his hunting party.

One of the witnesses, a hunter who was wounded in the shootings, gave a statement contradictory to Vang's. Lauren Hesebeck said a member of the hunting party shot at Vang only after he started firing at them, according to court documents.

Five people died in the woods; a sixth died Monday in a hospital. Two others were wounded. (AP)



Vang

THANKSGIVING | HUNGRY GOBBLERS



TALKING TURKEY: Ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, actors dressed as turkeys stand in line at a food cart as they take a break from participating in a promotion in New York City's Times Square on Tuesday. The event was sponsored by Country Crock Side Dishes, which is donating 9,000 pounds of mashed potatoes to a food bank for needy families.

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Nation



GOOD COMPANY: Oprah Winfrey can add another feather to her cap — 30 percent of travelers said she would be the best talk-show host to sit next to on a cross-country flight, a survey by a Visa card issuer found.

SEA LIFE | RELOCATING



MAKING FRIENDS: A loggerhead sea turtle, front, swims in the tropical-reef tank on Tuesday at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Neb. The loggerhead turtle, brought in from the Baltimore Aquarium, is the latest addition to the tank.

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Obesity Report Flawed

**CDC admits statistical
errors; problem may
have been overstated**

ATLANTA | A widely reported government study that said obesity is about to overtake smoking as the No. 1 cause of death in the United States contained statistical errors and may have overstated the problem, officials acknowledged Tuesday.

The government is working on a rare correction to the study.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in March that a poor diet and physical inactivity were responsible for 400,000 deaths in 2000, a 33 percent jump from 1990.

However, the CDC admitted Tuesday that it made an error in calculating how many people died from obesity in the last decade.

Although CDC officials declined to specify the corrected number of deaths, The Wall Street Journal reported on Tuesday that the agency may have overstated the number by 80,000. DANIEL YEE (AP)

Exploding Cell Phones A Hot Consumer Issue

WASHINGTON | Curtis Sathre said it was like a bomb going off. His 13-year-old son Michael stood stunned, his ears ringing, hand gushing blood and covered in black ash after his cell phone exploded last August.

Over the past two years, federal safety officials have received 83 reports of cell phones exploding or catching fire, usually because of incompatible, faulty or counterfeit batteries or chargers. Burns to the face, neck, leg and hip are among the dozens of injury reports the agency has received.

U.S. phone makers and carriers say most problems are caused by counterfeit batteries and note that in a country with some 170 million cell phone users, the number of accidents is extremely low.

Some consumer advocates say

the cause goes beyond bad batteries making their way to the market. They point to the increasing pressure on battery and phone makers to fit more capabilities into small instruments. ELIZABETH WOLFE (AP)

KEEPING IT COOL

Among the safety tips officials suggest to keep cell phone batteries from overheating:

- **When removing** a battery, avoid putting it in contact with metal, such as keys or coins.
- **Don't expose** a battery to water or extreme temperatures.
- **Buy parts** from an authorized dealer or legitimate outlet, rather than secondhand dealers or off the Internet, to ensure the products are properly made. (AP)

Lottery Winner Had 78 Cents in Bank

NEW YORK | With just 78 cents in his savings account and \$44,000 owed to creditors, parking attendant Juan Rodriguez plunked down \$1 on a lottery ticket.

Good thing he wasn't pinching pennies: He won last Friday's \$149 million lottery jackpot.

Rodriguez, 49, of Queens, bought his lottery ticket about one month after filing for bankruptcy.

There was one clue that Rodriguez wanted his cash fast: He opted for a lump-sum payment of \$88.5 million instead of 26 annual installments. (AP)

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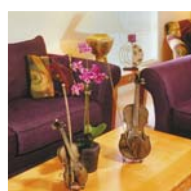
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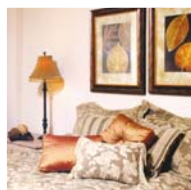
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World



POTTY FOUL: Luxury toilet paper is partly to blame for a 10 percent rise in clogs handled this year by British Gas, a study found. Low-priced and recycled paper broke down in minutes; luxury brands took up to a half-hour, the BBC reported.

Ukraine on 'Threshold of Civil Conflict'

Defiant opposition leader, trailing in vote, takes oath of office

KIEV, UKRAINE | Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko defiantly claimed Ukraine's presidency Tuesday, taking a symbolic oath of office in parliament, as about 200,000 of his supporters wearing orange campaign colors marched to demand that the disputed election be overturned.

Yushchenko accused authorities of rigging Sunday's vote in favor of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and announced a campaign of civil disobedience.

"Ukraine is on the threshold of a civil conflict," Yushchenko told lawmakers gathered for an emergency session. "We have two choices: either the answer will be given by the parliament, or the streets will give an answer."

The election commission announced Monday that the Kremlin-backed Yanukovich was ahead of the Western-leaning



Yushchenko by more than two percent with most votes counted. That infuriated the opposition, which had been buoyed by exit polls showing Yushchenko the winner.

As snow fell Tuesday night, more than 10,000 Yushchenko supporters marched to the presidential administration building,

skirting some heavy trucks that blocked the street and facing off with hundreds of police in full riot gear who were guarding the building. Others set up tents on Kiev's main avenue and in Independence Square, pledging to stay until he is declared president.

President Leonid Kuchma



TURMOIL: Yushchenko supporters rally in Kiev's Independence Square on Tuesday. Above, Yushchenko takes a symbolic oath of office during a parliament session in Kiev on Tuesday.

stepped into the spiraling political crisis on Tuesday night, calling for negotiations among all sides, according to a statement read on state television. Kuchma referred to the demonstrations as "political farce ... [which is] extremely dangerous and may lead to unforeseeable consequences." MARA D. BELLABY (AP)

Abbas Takes Hard Line On Palestinian Refugees

Arafat's successor demands Israel agree to 'right of return'

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK | The interim Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, told parliament on Tuesday that he'll follow in Yasser Arafat's footsteps and demand that Israel recognize the "right of return" of Palestinian refugees, a hard-line position that has contributed to failed peace efforts in the past.

Abbas' remarks were seen as the start of his six-week presidential campaign, signaling to young, militant activists that he would not compromise on long-held Palestinian policies, though Israel considers them deal-breakers. Abbas is the old-guard Fatah party's candidate to run in the Jan. 9 election.

"We promise you [Arafat] that our heart will not rest until we achieve the right of return for our people," Abbas said at a memorial for Arafat at the Palestinian parliament.

The "right of return" is a demand that all the refugees from the war that followed Israel's creation in 1948 should be allowed to return to their homes, along with their descendants.

That refers to a total of about 4 million people.

Israel has rejected the concept, offering compensation to refugees and saying they should find homes in Arab countries or a Palestinian state. The estimated 4 million Arabs would overwhelm the Jewish state, where about 6 million Jews live. (AP)



Abbas

3 U.N. Workers 'Abandoned' by Captors in Kabul

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | Three U.N. workers held hostage for nearly a month were preparing to fly home after their release Tuesday from an ordeal that suggested Taliban-linked militants are adopting the tactics of Iraqi insurgents.

Afghan officials remained vague about the identity of the kidnappers, but said a string of armed raids in

Kabul increased pressure on the captors to release their hostages. Officials said no deals were done to win the release.

Annetta Flanagan from Northern Ireland, Philippine diplomat Angelito Nayan and Shqipe Hebibi of Kosovo were "abandoned" by their captors in the Afghan capital early Tuesday morning, officials said.

Armed men seized the trio from a marked U.N. vehicle on a busy Kabul street on Oct. 28, in the first abduction of foreigners in the city since the fall of the Taliban three years ago. STEPHEN GRAHAM (AP)

HEARSAY | CLASS STRUGGLE



"I'm not going to have a house, nor a car, nor foreign bank accounts. ... I'll leave the same way I arrived."

— VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ

PLEDGING TUESDAY, WHILE VISITING SPAIN, TO LEAVE OFFICE THE POOR MAN HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST CAME TO POWER IN 1998. CHAVEZ IS PUSHING WHAT HE CALLS A REVOLUTION FOR THE POOR, WHICH CRITICS SAY POLARIZES VENEZUELA BY VILIFYING THE RICH.

In Brief

UNITED NATIONS

Gap Closes Between Number Of Women, Men With AIDS

Women are being infected with HIV at increasing rates in all regions of the world, and their numbers are now nearly equal to men, according to the United Nations and World Health Organization's annual report on AIDS released Tuesday. The increase among women has been especially steep in East Asia — which has experienced a 56 percent climb in the past two years — and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where rates have risen 48 percent. (L.A. TIMES)

CUBA

China's Hu Agrees to Invest Millions in Cuban Industries

China forged a stronger economic partnership with fellow communist nation Cuba as Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed to multimillion-dollar investment in the island's key nickel industry and attended talks Tuesday aimed at increasing the Asian powerhouse's involvement in Cuban tourism and telecommunications. Hu arrived in Cuba on Monday for a two-day visit. Relations between Cuba and China have steadily strengthened since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and the island lost its preferential trade and aid deals with the Soviet bloc. (AP)

UNITED NATIONS

Danforth Laments Impasse On Sudan Rights Resolution

U.S. Ambassador John Danforth criticized the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday after diplomats made clear they will scuttle a resolution denouncing rights abuses in Sudan's Darfur region, where a massive conflict has forced 1.8 million people to flee their homes. Diplomats meeting in the human rights committee are expected Wednesday to file a "no action" motion, which lets them put off the topic until next year. The opponents are mainly African countries loathe to condemn other African leaders. "One wonders about the utility of the General Assembly on days like this," Danforth said. (AP)

Truce in tatters: Sudan bombs town in N. Darfur after rebels there attack police | Today's Post: Section A

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EVENT CALENDAR

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DR. KUCHO!

SATURDAY NOV 27

3 DEGREES GLOBAL PARTY

WEDNESDAY DEC 1

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DJS & LIVE MCs

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DC'S BEST LATIN PARTY!

FRIDAY DEC 3

D:FUSE

SATURDAY DEC 4

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Money

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The average cost of a bargain-hunter's Thanksgiving meal for 10—including turkey, stuffing and more, according to an informal study by the American Farm Bureau Federation. That's 60 cents less than last year.

Viacom Pays \$3.5M To End FCC Probes

Fine settles pending shock-jock investigations

WASHINGTON | Viacom agreed Tuesday to pay \$3.5 million to end investigations by the Federal Communications Commission into allegations of indecency in its radio and television programming. The fine, one of the largest in FCC history, settles three pending FCC investigations, one involving shock jock Howard Stern and two involving Opie and Anthony, who lost their Viacom-owned New York radio show after it featured a couple purporting to have sex inside St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. Viacom agreed to install audio delay equipment at its radio stations that broadcast live programming, and to train its broadcasters and

employees about indecency laws. "This consent decree allows us to move forward and to focus our efforts in this area by serving our viewers and listeners with techniques to safeguard live broadcasts, such as cutaways and video and audio delays," Viacom said in a statement. These are not related to the FCC's \$550,000 fine levied against Viacom after the exposure of singer Janet Jackson's breast during the CBS Super Bowl halftime show in January. Viacom is contesting that fine. The agreement cancels investigations into about 50 radio and television shows, said Richard Diamond, FCC deputy secretary of communications. EMILY FREDRIX (AP)

Dollar Slides to New Low Against Euro

BERLIN | The U.S. dollar slid to yet another new low Tuesday against the euro, which rose above \$1.31 for the first time after a weekend meeting of the world's top finance officials failed to send any signal of forthcoming action to stop the

dollar's slide. The European currency rose as high as \$1.3105 in afternoon trading in Europe, breaking the previous record of \$1.3074 set last week. The 12-nation currency has risen from about \$1.20 about two months

ago, prompting European leaders to worry openly that the continued rise of the euro might damage their fragile export-driven recovery. While a weak dollar helps U.S. exporters, it can make items like German sports cars or French wines more expensive or lower profit margins for their manufacturers. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
RangeRsc	19.91	+2.32	+13.2
Perini Cp	15.68	+1.35	+9.4
NY&Co n	22.00	+1.86	+9.2
ML Macad	4.25	+0.30	+7.6
Miller h	11.24	+0.77	+7.4
Losers			
Dycom	29.80	-4.84	-14.0
WidW Ent	12.04	-1.36	-10.1
TwrAuto	2.07	-0.15	-6.8
KemetCp	8.13	-0.50	-5.8
Mastec	7.56	-0.46	-5.7

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
GoAmr rs	13.46	+3.81	+39.5
Everlast	4.12	+1.10	+36.4
JB Oxford	2.99	+0.74	+32.9
PacificNet	8.82	+2.15	+32.2
AnlySur	3.25	+0.68	+26.5
Losers			
MothrWk	13.85	-3.72	-21.2
AbleEnr	3.66	-0.89	-19.5
Rockford	2.42	-0.47	-16.3
TorchOff	2.25	-0.40	-15.1
NVE Corp	30.90	-5.36	-14.8

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.00	5.00
Fed Funds close	2.00	2.00
3-month	2.14	2.10
2-year	2.96	2.89
10-year	4.17	4.21
30-year	4.84	4.90

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5354	.5382	.5870
Canadian Dollar	1.1864	1.1860	1.3025
European Euro	.7645	.7670	.8393
Japanese Yen	103.43	103.25	108.80
Mexican Peso	11.3350	11.3650	11.2250
Taiwanese Dollar	32.47	32.45	34.04

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+3.18	-0.91	-0.30
+0.03	-0.04	-0.03
10492.60	2084.28	1176.94

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ClearChan	34.71	-.07	-25.9
Comcast	30.79	+0.07	-6.1
Comc sp	30.28	-.04	-3.2
CoxCom	34.64	+0.07	+6
DirectTV	16.08	+0.04	-2.8
Disney	27.32	+0.13	+17.1
Fox Ent	29.99	+0.20	+2.9
Gannett	82.15	-.35	-7.9
GTelevisa	59.33	+0.34	+48.8
LibtyMA	10.49	+0.06	+6.6
McGrH	87.47	+0.07	+25.1
Omnicom	82.40	+0.16	-5.6
Thomson	35.66	-.18	-1.6
TimeWarn	17.94	+0.48	-.3
ViacomB	35.24	+0.61	-20.6



'PEN' PALS: Martha Stewart, in prison during one of her favorite holidays, says she is "safe, fit and healthy." In a new message on her Web site, Stewart also says that, contrary to rumors, she is fairly treated at the federal women's prison in Alderson, W.Va. Stewart is serving a five-month sentence for lying about a stock sale and will be released in early March. (AP)

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Local



DINNER IS SERVED: D.C.-based Food & Friends is preparing 6,500 pounds of turkey, 825 pounds of stuffing and 1,200 pies as part of the 3,000 Thanksgiving meals it plans to deliver to area residents with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other illnesses.

Crackdown on Human Trafficking

District receives grant to combat sexual slavery

WASHINGTON | City police are planning to crack down on what amounts to modern-day slavery.

The Justice Department on Tuesday announced a \$450,000 grant for a special District of Columbia task force to combat human trafficking.

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Alexander Acosta described finding a 14-year-old immigrant from Mexico with a teddy bear on the nightstand in a trailer with only a twin bed and a screen.

"She was held there and forced to have sex with 30 men per day,"

Acosta said. "It happens more than Americans realize it."

In July, the U.S. Attorney's Office in D.C. prosecuted a man who turned two girls, ages 12 and 17, into prostitutes. Both were runaways to whom he offered food and shelter.

D.C. Metropolitan Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey said he does not

know how prevalent human trafficking is in the city, but that even one victim is one too many.

Ramsey said the grant money will be used for overtime and training officers to identify the signs of human and trafficking. Some money will also go for social services to help the victims.

HEATHER GREENFIELD (AP)

Confident Mayor Heads To St. Louis for Holiday

D.C.'s Williams says baseball stadium plan will pass next week

WASHINGTON | As he prepared to leave town for Thanksgiving, Mayor Anthony A. Williams said Tuesday he is confident the plan to finance a baseball stadium for the new Washington Nationals is on track for a vote next week.

Williams is traveling to St. Louis to be with his wife's family. He said he wouldn't be going if there were any doubt that the D.C. Council would approve the stadium financing package on Nov. 30.

"I wouldn't do anything to

jeopardize our status or our vote," Williams said.

D.C. Council Chair Linda Cropp delayed a previously scheduled vote on the package, demanding that the council consider private financing options to save the city money.

Williams is preparing for another trip next week that should come after the baseball vote. The mayor will attend the National League of Cities' annual convention where he will be elected president of the organization.

Williams has caught flak for his frequent travels which this year alone have taken him to places such as China, Las Vegas, Rome and twice to Paris. BRETT ZONGKER (AP)

Richmond Blasts Mystery Is Solved

RICHMOND, VA. | A series of mysterious booms that toppled picture frames and rattled residents of a leafy neighborhood for weeks is the work of pranksters or vandals, not mini-earthquakes or mischievous extraterrestrials, authorities said Tuesday.

Three weeks after a thunderous blast on election night left startled homeowners surveying their basements, plumbing and foundations for ruptures, investigators found several explosive devices Tuesday in city sewers.

The discoveries provide welcome answers to thousands of people who became more fearful



Richmond Police Capt. William Martin discusses the city's recent blasts.

with each unexplained, earthshaking blast.

"It's a pressure-producing device, not an incendiary device," said Capt. William M. Martin, the deputy city fire marshal for investigations. He said they were evidence in a criminal case, but declined to discuss specifics or say how many had been found. BOB LEWIS (AP)

HOLIDAYS | SEEING STARS



TOPPED OFF: Lynne Cheney, center, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney, waves with Peter Nostrand, president of Christmas Pageant of Peace, Inc., right, and her grandchildren after they placed the star on the 2004 National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse in Washington on Tuesday.

Search for Md. Plane Crash Called Off

BOWIE, MD. | Rescuers called off a foot search for a small plane that reportedly crashed Tuesday evening in Bowie, amid signs that the report may have been a hoax.

Mark Brady, spokesman for the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, said the reports came from people who overheard conversations on their citizens band radios and called police. Brady also said

the tail number did not check out.

Those who phoned police reported that the pilot and a passenger were injured badly but remained conscious near Route 301.

The search was called off after air traffic controllers at Andrews Air Force Base found no signs of a small plane going down, Brady said. A state police helicopter was to conduct an air search on Wednesday. (AP)

In Brief

ROCKVILLE, MD.

Police Probe After-School Attacks on Girls at Homes

Two girls have been attacked in their homes just after school hours since Nov. 12, and a third girl recently reported a suspicious man at her door, Montgomery County police said Tuesday. All three incidents occurred between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. when the teens were home alone, and all three gave police similar descriptions of a male suspect. (AP)

LARGO, MD.

Gang Member, Murder Suspect Arrested in Va.

A murder suspect whom authorities describe as a known member of the MS-13 gang was arrested Tuesday in Woodbridge, Va. The Prince George's County, Md., Sheriff's Office said its deputies worked with the Prince William County, Va., police to capture Henry Zelaya. He surrendered without a fight. Zelaya, 20, is wanted in the April 2003 killing of a man the sheriff said was a rival within MS-13. The killing occurred in Hyattsville, Md. (AP)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Nov. 23

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	7-2-4
Evening Lucky Numbers	9-5-6
Mid-day DC 4	5-5-8-3
Evening DC 4	9-3-0-5
Quick Cash	12-25-32-35-23-9
Hot Five	33-4-23-16-1

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	5-9-7
Evening Pick 3	8-7-7
Mid-day Pick 4	0-5-9-9
Evening Pick 4	1-3-6-1
Match 5	4-6-12-13-29 Bonus: 14

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	2-5-9
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	6-6-8
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	0-8-8-4
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	9-8-1-9
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	6-22-23-24-29
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	10-12-20-22-31

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

'BABY BENTLEY' IS BEST: The Chrysler 300 has been named Motor Trend magazine's Car of the Year. The car was popular within a broad demographic and helped the automaker revive its U.S. business.



Cars

2005's Safe Bet

New Hyundai Tucson sports a nice package of safety features

ROAD TEST | There's more to the 2005 Hyundai Tucson than its affordable price.

This sport utility vehicle is an exceptional package of standard safety features, including stability control, traction control, antilock brakes, front side airbags and side curtain airbags.

This engine performs well. The vehicle doesn't lag when passing others, and the engine works well moving the Tucson GLS up hilly roads.

Transmission shifts in the Tucson are quite smooth, and the



STANDING TALL: Like most SUVs, the Tucson has the typical tall profile, but it has comfortably positioned seats that offer the driver a good view of the road ahead.

ride inside is mostly quiet. The worst noise occurs when the Tucson travels on highway that is rough and pitted.

The independent suspension damps many road bumps, but

the vehicle bobs gently up and down on some road undulations. There's noticeable body lean when the Tucson drives through curves.

The Tucson has the typical tall SUV profile.

2005 HYUNDAI TUCSON GLS 4WD

TYPE: Front-engine, four-wheel-drive, five-passenger, compact sport utility vehicle

ENGINE: 2.7-liter, double overhead cam V6

HORSEPOWER: 173 hp at 6,000 rpm

TORQUE: 178 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm

MILEAGE: 19 mpg city, 24 highway

PRICE AS TESTED: \$22,094

BASE PRICE: \$18,299 for GL 2WD with automatic; \$18,999 for GL 4WD with manual transmission; \$19,999 for GLS 2WD; \$21,499 for GLS 4WD

because they rub against the mud and dirt that collect on the outer door sills.

The Tucson's power-assisted rack-and-pinion steering has a mainstream feel, and the interior conveys a well-put-together look with easy-to-read gauges and pleasing fabrics.

The leather in the LX isn't very soft and supple, though.

Rear-seat riders get decent room in the Tucson.

Four-wheel-drive Tucsons come with a Borg Warner torque management system that monitors wheel traction, among other things.

If slippage is detected, up to 50 percent of the power can be sent automatically to the back.

Safety items aren't the only standard features on this vehicle.

Every Tucson comes with power door locks, power windows, power mirrors, remote keyless entry, air conditioning, floor mats, CD player, a washable cargo floor and heated outside mirrors. ANN M. JOB (AP)

Where Cars Are Going

A look at what's ahead as SUVs begin to fade

TRENDS | Now that SUV fever is cooling, automakers are scrambling to keep up with demand in other areas. Here are some trends to watch in the industry:

1. SUVs TURN INTO CUVS

Sales of truck-based SUVs are flattening out. Crossovers handle like smaller vehicles and get better gas mileage.

2. THAT THING GOT A HYBRID IN IT?

Gas-electric hybrid cars are a smash, causing a vigorous era of under-hood experimentation.

Modern diesels, automakers say, are smooth and can be as clean as gasoline engines — with significant improvements in fuel economy.

3. RACING IN THE STREETS

Demand for muscle cars is up. Brands are embarking on a horsepower race with a crop of hyper-powered compacts.

4. LUXURY FOR EVERYONE

Luxury brands' share of auto sales is rising, and vehicles keep getting plusher and better-equipped.

Luxury brands are expanding with sportier sedans, crossover SUVs and pickup trucks.

5. SAFETY AS A SELLING POINT

Premium brands are using advanced safety technology.

Once-exotic technologies are more widely available. Coming next: technology that warns a



HELLO, HYBRIDS: Gas-electric cars, like Toyota's Highlander, are highly popular.

driver when the vehicle drifts out of the lane; radar-enabled cruise control that automatically keeps a safe distance between your car and the one ahead; and side-scanning radars that warn of cars in your blind spot.

6. URBAN STYLE MAKES WAVES

Super-size chrome wheels are a hit. Urban fashion is influencing the styling and features of mainstream cars. Wheels and tires are getting bigger. JOSEPH B. WHITE

(WALL STREET JOURNAL)

WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN WHY

“... Other than a distressing lack of quality hair care products, things are fine in Middle Earth ...
... Brian DePalma's new film is a valentine to the two directors he loves most: Alfred Hitchcock and Brian DePalma ...
... It looks like a movie, it sounds like a movie, you see it in a movie theater, but it's not a movie. It's like a 2-1/2 hour preview ...”

Stephen Hunter | Movie Critic

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Sports



HEALING BEGINS: Retired running back Ricky Williams has turned up in an unlikely spot — at a Northern California school for holistic medicine. He is now about a month into a 17-month course at the California College of Ayurveda in Grass Valley.

Union Appeals Brawl Penalties

Arbitrator asked to rule on length of suspensions

NBA BRAWL | The NBA players' union filed an appeal Tuesday on behalf of Indiana Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal, who were suspended for their roles in a brawl with Detroit Pistons fans last week.

The union asked that an arbitrator decide whether there should be reductions in the suspensions handed out Sunday. Artest was banned for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25.

Union director Billy Hunter has called the penalties excessive, saying a suspension of about 35 games would have been more appropriate for Artest. Artest called his suspension too harsh on the "Today" show.

Commissioner David Stern, who issued the suspensions, has sole discretion under collective bargaining rules over penalties for on-

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

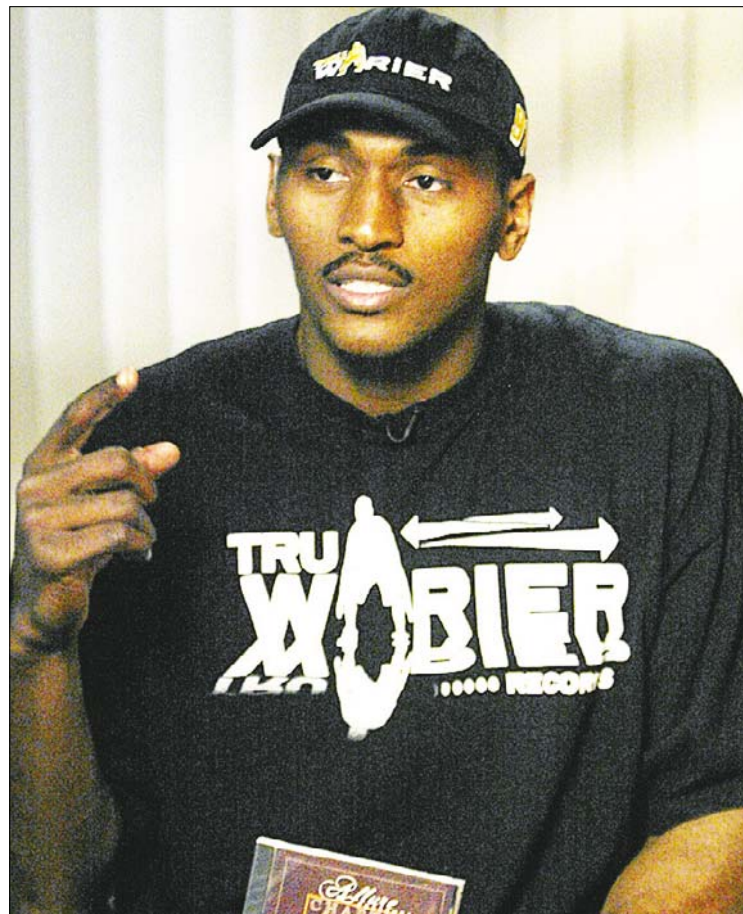
→ **Two fans sued** the Pacers and Artest, Jackson and O'Neal, contending they were injured in the fracas Friday night.

→ **Police released** a video-tape and asked the public's help in identifying a man who investigators believe hurled a chair into the crowd during the brawl.

court behavior, and all appeals go through him, too.

The union, however, asked in its one-page appeal that the case go to arbitrator Roger Kaplan. Stern normally would have 20 days to rule on an appeal of an on-court discipline matter, and it was unclear whether the union's appeal strategy would put this case under that timetable.

CHRIS SHERIDAN (AP)



MIXED MESSAGES: Ron Artest was remorseful for the fight, though he called his suspension too long Tuesday. He also made time to plug his album in interviews.

In Brief

FOOTBALL

Parcells: 'Good Chance' Henson Will Start Thursday

Dallas Cowboys rookie Drew Henson will make his first NFL start Thursday, barring a miraculous recovery by the injured quarterback Vinny Testaverde. Coach Bill Parcells, who has been reluctant to play Henson unless forced, said Tuesday that there was "a good chance" Henson would start the Thanksgiving Day game against the Chicago Bears. (AP)

SOCCER

Donovan Back to Germany

Landon Donovan is leaving Major League Soccer's San Jose Earthquakes after four seasons and will return to Bayer Leverkusen in Germany. The 22-year-old forward, the U.S. Soccer Federation's player of the year in 2003 and national team captain, will rejoin the Bundesliga club in January following the end of a sharing arrangement between MLS and Bayer Leverkusen. (AP)

FOOTBALL

Browns Coach Safe for Now

Browns coach Butch Davis is keeping his job — for now. Amid speculation he's about to be fired, Cleveland issued a statement saying it wasn't planning any changes. "We reiterate that we are keeping our organization intact in order to focus our efforts toward winning our remaining football games," the team said. It's unclear if "intact" meant for the remainder of the season with Davis or if owner Randy Lerner will make a move over the next six weeks. (AP)

Artest Starts Rebuilding His Image

Suspended forward uses free time to pitch CD

TIME OUT | Ron Artest was benched by his coach two weeks ago because he wanted time off to promote a new CD he produced for an R&B group. The Indiana Pacers forward has plenty of time on his hands now.

Two days after NBA commis-

sioner David Stern suspended him for the rest of the season for climbing into the stands to fight with Detroit Pistons fans, Artest began trying to scrub his image and sell some records, doing a series of local and national TV interviews

and promotional appearances.

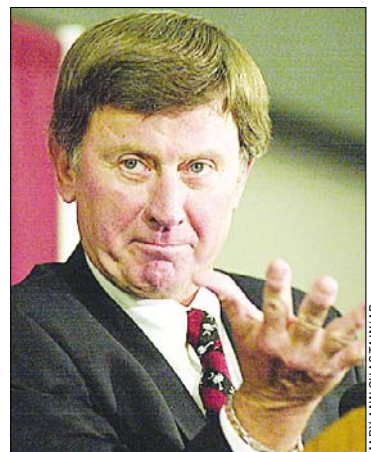
He was contrite and soft-spoken during his interviews, during which he mixed statements of regret for Friday's brawl with plugs for the new CD.

During an interview on "Today," Artest held up the album three times and wore a T-shirt and hat embla-

zoned with the logo of his record label — TruWarrior Records.

His description of the CD — "It's positive, it's about love" — seemed to be Artest's message for the day. "Things happen and you move on," he said. "Nobody benefited from this situation." STEVE HERMAN (AP)

Thomas Boswell: A look at what sportsmanship means in today's society | *Today's Post, Sports*



A humble Steve Spurrier was introduced as South Carolina's coach on Tuesday.

Ol' Ball Coach Gets Back In the Game

Ex-Redskins coach Spurrier signs 7-year deal at South Carolina

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Steve Spurrier might give his brash, visor-throwing style an overhaul now that he has returned to college football.

Spurrier took over at South Carolina on Tuesday, signing a seven-year deal worth \$1.25 million a season that could grow to more than \$2 million with incentives. He

pledged to turn the Gamecocks into the consistent champion he built for 12 seasons at Florida, where he won the national title in 1996.

But the ol' ball coach comes back following a dose of humility, after going 12-20 in two pitiful seasons as the Washington Redskins coach in 2002 and 2003.

"Maybe I was a little arrogant. Maybe I ran my mouth more than I should," Spurrier said. "So hopefully, I've learned some humility and great respect for all coaches."

Is this the same man who quipped you can't spell the Citrus Bowl without UT (Tennessee)? Or called Florida State, "Free Shoes University?"

The 59-year-old Spurrier, who replaces Lou Holtz, met with his new team and found them eager to push forward. "We've got everything here," Spurrier said. "I'd like to borrow a phrase from the Boston Red Sox: Why not us? Why not the University of South Carolina Gamecocks?" PETE IACOBELLI (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

NBA (7 P.M. ON ESPN) The Detroit Pistons, playing without the suspended Ben Wallace, visit the Cleveland Cavaliers.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (7 P.M. ON ESPN2) No. 1 Wake Forest faces Providence, followed by Arizona vs. Michigan, in the Preseason NIT semifinals.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (8 P.M. ON COMCAST) Fresh off beating Arizona, Virginia hosts Appalachian State.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (9:30 P.M. ON ESPN) The championship game of the Maui Invitational.

1984 B.C.: Twenty years ago Tuesday, Boston College's Doug Flutie completed the famous Hail Mary pass to Gerard Phelan to defeat the University of Miami in what is widely considered one of the defining moments in college football history.



Sports

FENWAY PARK | LEVEL PLAYING FIELD



UPGRADE: Workers in Boston grade Fenway Park's field on Tuesday, one of the improvements being made to the drainage system to decrease rainouts.

Friedgen Benches Statham

Maryland coach plans to use season finale as lead-in to next year

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | With one game left in a disappointing football season, Maryland is already looking ahead to next year.

Terrapins coach Ralph Friedgen benched quarterback Joel Statham, and will start third-stringer Sam Hollenbach against Wake Forest on Saturday if true freshman Jordan Steffy has not sufficiently recovered from the concussion he received in Thursday's 51-6 loss to

Virginia Tech.

Friedgen indicated Tuesday that it is unlikely that Steffy will be medically cleared in time to learn the game plan and practice, so will probably watch from the sideline.

Maryland (4-6, 2-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) can't go to a bowl game and is assured its first losing season since Friedgen arrived four years ago.

The coach intends to use the finale to take some momentum into the offseason and get a better read on the team's muddled quarterback situation.

"It's not a meaningless game.

Let's get that point clear," he insisted. "I think it's a very important game; there's a big difference between being 4-7 and 5-6."

Statham started the first 10 games with mixed results. He threw for 362 yards against Duke and helped the Terps upset Florida State, but went 8-for-17 for 70 yards and three interceptions against Virginia Tech.

Hollenbach, a sophomore, was 5-for-8 for 53 yards against Virginia Tech. Now he gets his first college start and another shot to prove he's worthy of being the starter in 2005.

DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

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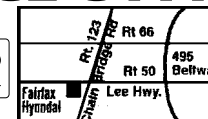
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Entertainment

WeekendPass



COLD FUSION: With other ensembles jockeying to snag the "bad boys of jazz" title, MMW stepped up its game with a pivotal new recording, "End of the World Party."

All That Jazz

Medeski, Martin & Wood play a crucial groove

MUSIC | "End of the World Party (Just in Case)," the new disc from Medeski, Martin & Wood, could serve as the death warrant to the jam-band scene.

During the scene's mid-'90s rah-hah, MMW were its poster-children as mostly granola college students in Birkenstocks and tie-dye noodle-danced to fizzy, groove-based jazz-rock improv. Today, MMW has outgrown the jam-band scene, sounding wiser, if a bit solemn.

MMW are still as funky as ever, but the "Good Times" vibes of everyone partying have given way to darker, more disquieting escapades.

Whereas their last 2001 disc, "Uninvisible" was marked by chilly ennui, "End of the World Party" establishes itself as the band's crankiest album yet, following the lead of such pivotal recordings as Sly & the Family Stone's "There's a Riot Goin' On" and De La Soul's "De La Soul Is Dead."

The band enlists John King of the Dust Brothers as producer, and together they concoct edgy, filmistic ambiances, filled with gothic keyboard flourishes, operatic synth-swells, rusty beats and skulking bass lines.

If "End of the World Party" had come out three years ago, it would have easily been viewed as a musical postcard of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

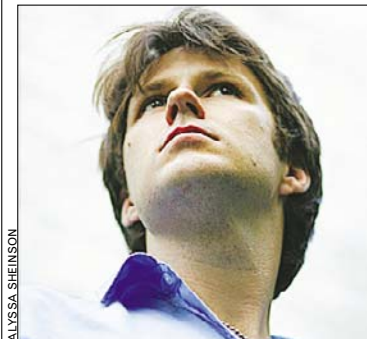
Now, cuts like the spooky "Anonymous Skulls," the symphonic "Bloody Oil," and the somber "Midnight Poppies/Crooked

Birds" serve as reminders that danger still lingers.

Even the disc's merrier moments like the surf-rock ditty, "Queen Bee" and the Latin-flavored "Mami Gato" hint at bitter irony, despite John Medeski's funky keyboard riffs and melodies, Billy Martin's good-foot drumming and Chris Wood's swaggering bass. Instead of bouncing with rhythmic verve, the songs trudge along like zombies at a keg-party.

Considering the Bad Plus recently stole some of MMW's thunder as the "bad boys" of modern jazz, it was definitely time for Medeski, Martin & Wood to reinvent themselves — even if that meant killing the sound of a scene that propelled them into stardom. **JOHN MURPH**

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sat., Nov. 27, 9 p.m., \$25; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)



Travis Morrison stands majestically atop the ashes of a once-great band.

Just the Good Stuff: Best of 'The Nutcracker'

The Alexandria Ballet has saved the good stuff and tossed out all those pesky divertissements and pantomime passages. They're calling it "Highlights of the Nutcracker" and they ain't lying — your kids are in, they're out; no one gets hurt except the Mouse King.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria; opens Sat., Nov. 27, through Dec. 19, \$9-\$15; 703-548-0035.

Continued on following page

Hot Stuff: Character-actor-about-town Wallace Shawn unveils his one-act play, "The Fever."



STAGE | 15

Driver's Feat: Minnie Driver gets back to her musical roots with an album and a tour.



MUSIC | 18

Thanks a Lot: Thursday means only one thing: turkey and football. OK, two things.



FAMILY | 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com



A WORLD OF DOUBT: Christopher Henley as the well-off traveler at sea in places that challenge his sense of self in Wallace Shawn's one-man play, "The Fever."

A Playwright's Travel 'Fever'

Wallace Shawn catches the bug in a new one-man play

STAGE | So that pint-sized, lisping, bald guy from "The Princess Bride," — aka Vizzini, the smartest man in the world — is actually one of America's great playwrights?

Incontheivable!

Yet true. Wallace Shawn is the Obie award-winning author of "The Fever," a one-man play given its Washington premiere by Scena Theatre.

In it, a privileged traveler (Christopher Henley) collapses from illness in a poor third-world country. Soon, the meanings of "rich" and "poor" are reversed. Wallace traveled to Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador in the course of the writing. Then he brought his nebbishy gift of brutal self-assessment to bear on his wild adventure.

Happily, Shawn gives good monologue. Few would predict that a filmed dinner conversation between Shawn and playwright Andre Gregory could be so funny, poignant and harrowing at once.

But the 1981 film "My Dinner With Andre" became an instant classic. Also, with Julianne Moore, he turned Chekov inside out for "Vanya on 42nd Street." Other Oh-That-Guy! appearances include "Clueless," "Toy Story" and Grand Negus Zek on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

But big film roles are just his day job. Unlike most film celebs, Shawn's life is more fascinating off-screen. Especially now that Vanessa Redgrave will more or less play Wallace Shawn in the forthcoming screen version of "The Fever."

Truly incontheivable. **BOB MASSEY**
Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; through Jan. 3, \$25; 703-684-7990. (Mt. Vernon Square/Convention Center)

TopStops

Continued from preceding page

Like Father ...: An Evening of Leverts

Two generations of soul, sweat and sweet loving, it's the Father and Son Tour with R&B legends Eddie and Gerald Levert.

Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW; Sat., Nov. 27, 8 p.m., \$60; 800-551-7328.

Soulful Season: Will Downing

R&B stud Will Downing has released a holiday album ("Christmas, Love and You") and is putting his buttah-smooth vocal stylings on tour with a show called Soulful Christmas.

Warner Theatre, 513th 13th St. NW; with Vesta and Kirk Whalum, Fri., Nov. 26, 8 & 11:30 p.m., \$55; 800-551-7328. (Metro Center)

Sunday in The Washington Post



Open Wide and Say 'Meow':

Charles Williams has been where few dare to take a deep breath — he medicates the maws of National Zoo's animals. | *Sunday Source*

The Art of Writing of Art:

Biographies of DeKooning, Picasso, DaVinci and Balanchine are reviewed in a culturally refined edition of Book World. | *Book World*

Plugged In for the Holidays:

Who are those people with the zillions of lights and rooftop reindeer? John Kelly reports from the front lines of mega-wattage. | *The Washington Post Magazine*



Will Downing just about covers everything with "Christmas, Love and You."

Jazz, Chicks, Fists: Big Night at 9:30

A yooze night of music and maybe even action takes place at 9:30 Club on Wednesday, with the jazz pianist of the same name heading up the Chick Corea Elektric Band for a 6 p.m. early show (\$25), and gum-popping girl band the Donnas — with Starlite Desperation and brawling Detroit neo-garagists the Von Bondies — taking the stage after 10 p.m. (\$15). Which is music and which action is up to you.

9:30 Club, 815 V St., NW; 703-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)

Continued on page 18

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Carina Chocano, LOS ANGELES TIMES



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WeekendPass Entertainment

TopStops

Continued from page 15

Wild and Woolly: Craig Wright's 'Grace'

Woolly Mammoth continues to provoke and amaze, most recently with its production of Craig Wright's "Grace." Wright's drama about the inflexible boundaries of belief pulls together an evangelical entrepreneur, an unhappy wife and a damaged neighbor with tragic repercussions.



Jennifer Mendenhall's unhappy Sara is intrigued by Sam's (Paul Morella) grief.

Warehouse Theater, 1021 7th St. NW; through Dec. 19, 8 p.m., (Wed.-Sat.), 2 & 7 p.m. (Sun.), \$24-\$42; 800-494-8497. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

Minnie Driver puts her acting career on pause to make music

MUSIC | Keanu. "Bruno." Russell. Minnie?

Yep, following in the hallowed footsteps of other actors-turned-singers, Driver is forging a singing career.

But she's not just any actor with a hobby. Oh, no. Before she became an Oscar-nominated actress with a tendency to date her co-stars, Driver had a deal with a major U.K. label. The deal fell through when Driver was cast in "Circle of Friends," but apparently, Driver wants to return to her roots.

And curious locals can check out the results. Driver, who this fall released her first CD, "Everything I've Got in My Pocket," will perform at the Birchmere on Friday night as part of her first U.S. tour.

Driver is armed with everything a struggling artist could ask for: a veteran backup band with folk street cred, a "moody" piano version of a classic rock song (Bruce Springsteen's "Hungry Heart") and an album of songs with "deep" lyrics she wrote herself.

A segment from "Invisible Girl"



MINNIE, ME: Not among items listed in "Everything I've Got in My Pocket": an American Express black card and Earl Grey truffles from an Oscars goodie bag.

shows this versatile actress has feelings, too: "Heart shines like a neon sign/For tonight won't you just be mine/Invisible girl, in the sodium light/She's the Queen of

the Night."

Whoa. ERIN O'CONNOR

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri., Nov. 26, 10 p.m., \$16.50; 800-551-7328.

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HOLIDAY | MOVE IT, DASHER



GRIDLOCK: The Royal Norwegian Embassy puts on a particularly spectacular Christmas festival this year with food, concerts, exhibits (the image above is from Fred Ivar Utsi Klemetsen's "Frost: Life and Culture of the Sámi—Reindeer People of Norway"), model trains and, of course, the gorgeous tree at Union Station, lighting up Nov. 30. Events unfold throughout the season and around town, so check the schedule at 202-333-6000 or www.norway.org/xmas04.

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FRED IVAR UTSI KLEMETSEN

A Scary Christmas

Ford's 'Christmas Carol' brings horror and humor to the fore

STAGE | So, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future all walk into a bar ... stop us if you've heard this one.

Chances are, you haven't heard or seen a staging of "A Christmas Carol" like Ford's Theatre's, in which the ghostly activity and humor are amped up. As stage and television companies fall all over themselves to re-enact the Dickens classic this time of year, Ford's version does something a little different.

Adapted by Michael Wilson and directed by Matt August, "A



TIME IS RUNNING OUT: Ebenezer Scrooge (Martin Rayner), center, finds there's only one repenting day left until Christmas.

Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas" — a title that comes from Dickens' original name for the tale — adds comedy and fantasy to the traditional story of redemption. The classic characters are all present, but a multiracial cast, new sets and costumes tweak the narrative to give it a "fairy tale" feel.

The ghosts have new faces and attributes, taking on characteristics of people Mistah Scrooge (Martin Rayner) encounters in his daily London life.

It's bad enough having old friends shake their chains at you — imagine if you were haunted by that guy who read over your shoulder on the Metro. It must be said: Humbug. **ERIN O'CONNOR**

Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW; Nov. 23-Jan. 2; \$16-\$48; 202-347-4833. (Federal Triangle)



CHEAP DATE: The National Cathedral's annual exhibit of crèches is a quick shot of good cheer. Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues NW; through Jan. 9, free; 202-537-6200.

Avoid Turkey Coma

Hit the streets before hitting the gravy at a Thanksgiving trot

OUT & ABOUT | There's a reason they call it "stuffing." The Big Meal of the season isn't known for its slimming effects (or its energizing ones), but there is an alternative to passing on the good stuff — run one or five miles, or even 10 kilometers, on Thanksgiving Day morning, repeating "Candied yams, candied yams" with every step. **(EXPRESS)**



At the Prediction Run, the winning racer must hit the finish line at 11 a.m.

Nov. 25, 8:30 a.m., \$25-\$30; 301-530-8500.

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot IOK Prediction Run

Jeffers Hill Neighborhood Center, 6030 Tamar Drive, Columbia, Md.; Thu., Nov. 25, 9 a.m., \$7; \$2 student; \$10 cap per family; 410-730-4499.

Alexandria Turkey Trot Five-Miler

Cora Kelly School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria; Thu., Nov. 25, 10 a.m., \$15, \$10 in advance; 703-683-4815, ext. 203.

Way Station Thanksgiving Day 5K and I-Mile Fun Run

William Talley Recreation Center, 121 North Bentz St., Frederick, Md.; Thu., Nov. 25, 8 a.m., \$15-\$20, \$5 Fun Run; 301-662-0099, ext. 1756.

Virginia Run Turkey Trot

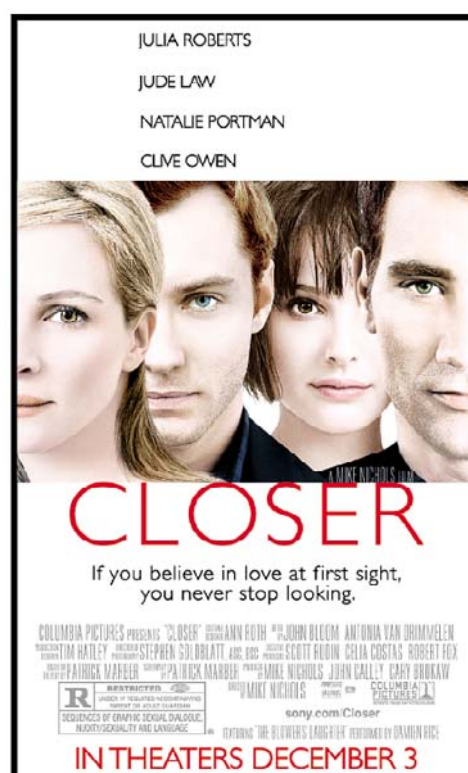
Virginia Run Community Center, 15355 Wetherburn Court, Centreville, Va.; Thu., Nov. 25, 8 a.m., \$17-\$22; 703-811-0052.

Turkey Chase

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COLUMBIA PICTURES

A Take-Out Turkey

'Christmas With the Kranks' isn't funny, but the actors shine

FILM | "Christmas With the Kranks" is better than its predecessors, the dreadful "Surviving Christmas" and the bloated "The Polar Express." Yet the movie, adapted from John Grisham's short novel "Skipping Christmas," still is one that's best skipped.

Warm and earnest performances by Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis make it tolerable and at times, almost cheery. But laughs are scarce, and the tinsel-thin story plays out like two separate one-note jokes.

First, Luther Krank (Allen) convinces wife Nora (Curtis) that they should duck out on Christmas and use the money for a Caribbean cruise now that daughter Blair (Julie Gonzalo) is in the Peace Corps and won't be home for the holidays.

Second, Blair calls on Christmas



HOLIDAY IN A HURRY: Curtis and Allen turn in warm performances as a couple scrambling to host the ideal Christmas.

Eve, saying she and her new fiance are coming home and that they're looking forward to a traditional

Krank holiday, complete with a huge party, a fabulous feast and a giant Frosty the Snowman on

the roof.

The movie's first half is a shallow succession of gags involving

disbelieving neighbors, friends and colleagues who cannot fathom why anyone would forgo the Christmas rush of shopping, parties, greeting cards and decorations.

The last half is another shallow succession of gags as Luther and Nora bustle about trying to create an instant Currier-and-Ives holiday for Blair's homecoming.

A few jokes click, notably Luther's frozen face after a Botox treatment and his purchase of the last Christmas tree on the lot, a twiggy thing that makes Charlie Brown's sapling look like a glorious blue spruce in comparison.

But producer-screenwriter Chris Columbus and filmmaker Joe Roth rely on repetitive jokes that weren't that funny the first time. Too many jaws drop open in idiotic incredulity when the Kranks tell people they're skipping Christmas. Relentless attempts by a neighbor (Dan Aykroyd) to prod Luther into putting up his giant Frosty decoration grow monotonous.

Some pleasant chemistry develops among Luther, a crotchety old neighbor (M. Emmet Walsh) and his terminally ill wife (Elizabeth Franz).

By then, though, you'll likely be dreaming of better Christmas movies yet to come.

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Dull Toga Party

'Alexander' brings the swords and sandals

FILM | Far from great, "Alexander" sporadically lumbers toward watchable, but mostly it's just bad.

And we're not just talking kitschy, B-movie bad. At least that would have been fun. We're talking all-out, big-budget-bomb bad.

Nothing about "Alexander" feels like an Oliver Stone film, at least not until a breathtaking battle toward the end involving elephants in India.

But perhaps Stone was doomed from the start. In telling the story of the Macedonian warrior-king, who had conquered the vast majority of the known pre-Christian world by the time he was 25, he has created a film that feels both too long and too

cursory. We hear Alexander (Colin Farrell) talk a lot about wanting to bring various lands and people together, but we never truly understand what drives him.

Although Farrell gives it his all, he lacks the gravitas necessary for the role. Also going way, way over the top is Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother, Olympias, who has a fondness for snakes and may or may not be a sorceress.

In an accent that seems to have been borrowed from George Hamilton in "Love at First Bite," Olympias repeatedly insists that Alexander's father was Zeus, though biology would suggest it was King Philip (Val Kilmer,

blustering beneath a beard and a beer belly).

At the same time, "Alexander" sometimes fails to go far enough: His bisexuality is merely suggested. It's almost as if Stone was afraid of alienating much of his audience.

Just when things get going, Stone drags the film's energy to a halt by returning repeatedly to Alexander's ally Ptolemy, now aged and played by Anthony Hopkins, toddling around barefoot in a white tunic and deifying his buddy while surveying an incredibly fake-looking harbor of Alexandria.

"A friend to man, he changed the world," Ptolemy recalls. In today's vernacular, we'd say he was a uniter, not a divider.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)



'MAKEUP!!!' Colin Farrell's artfully bloodied Alexander leads a crazy-eyed charge.

Hard Lessons

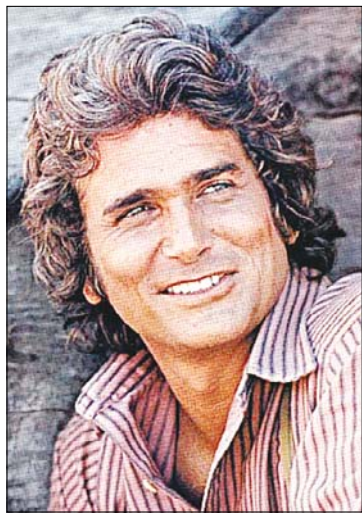
An obscure sports movie tackles an embarrassing secret

FILM | Teen bedwetting is one of those problems that is funny to just about everyone except the kid who has it — and the person who handles his laundry.

And the Library of Congress.

The Friday-night crowd at the Mary Pickford Theater will get to vote on the merits of "The Loneliest Runner." A small-screen drama about the heartbreak of awakening to soggy sheets, it is a candidate for inclusion in the National Film Registry.

In 1976, TV icon (and former collegiate track star) Michael Landon capitalized on his "Little House on the Prairie" fame by helming a semi-autobiographical production about



COURTESY NBC

Landon overcame his disability and went on to break hearts in "Bonanza."

his triumph over the yellow peril.

Too old to convincingly soil himself onscreen, Landon directed future "James at 15" star Lance

Kerwin in the role of a lad who regularly raced home to remove the dirty linens his mother had cruelly hung outside his bedroom window.

Time was when the solitary sport of running was a handy cinematic metaphor for the guy who stood outside society. Remember "The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner"? "Logan's Run"?

Then running turned into jogging. There weren't too many alienated antiheroes to be found among the track-suit-and-Adidas set.

But the bedwetter? Each morning, God bless him, he still slogs from shaming puddle to shower utterly alone.

For helping to make America's mattress pads a little drier — and its eyes a little moister — perhaps Landon's picture does merit official inclusion in the annals of film.

GLENN DIXON

Library of Congress, James Madison Building, Mary Pickford Theater, 101 Independence Ave. SE; Fri., Nov. 26, 7 p.m., free; 202-707-5677. (Capitol South)

MUSIC | JOKE'S ON YOU



WENONA R. DANIEL

LEMONLAND: Everyone's favorite sick-joke cow-punk imp Mary Prankster just wants to stir up trouble. Don't rattle her cage; she's meaner than she looks. Jammin' Java, 231 Maple Ave., Vienna; with Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, Fri., Nov. 26, 8 p.m., \$15, \$12 in advance; 703-255-1566.

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T-Minus 0: A Man in Full

The big show is here, and you're on the list

IN & SLEEPY | On Thursday, there's only one show in town. Making its first area appearance since Easter, headliner Carving Turkey is a bit dry, not to mention something of a drowsy-maker. But the smooth and savory What's Eating Giblet Gravy? promises to soften everything right up.

Also packing 'em in, Sweet Potato Casserole is supporting its tasty sophomore effort, "Second Helping." Cranberries (USA) have re-emerged with a slightly altered moniker but with all their tartness intact. And don't forget Plenty o' Stuffing (ex-Stale Bread). The battle of the bands continues

with a grudge match between All Together Now and GameDay, with the winner to face Madden, a strong competitor in recent years. The buzz on My Future Grandkids is that they should dominate the kitchen stage, although Student Debt and Rent Party may give them a run for their money. If you still haven't had enough, stick around for a special late-



OVER THE RIVER: Everyone is racing to see the opener, Soup No One Eats.

night performance by Open-Faced Sandwich, Mincemeat Is Murder, and Whatever's on the Tube. Don't think you can sleep in late, either. The bad girls of Black Friday Blitz start blasting their snarky cover of "Do They Know It's Christmas?" right around dawn. GLENN DIXON Your Folks' Place, The Old Neighborhood; Thu., Nov. 25, all day; free, but you may be asked to tell embarrassing stories about yourself; just hit 5 on your speed-dial. (They'll pick you up at the airport.)

express movie showtimes

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Weekend Pass. Thursdays.

MOVE OVER, OPRAH: Howard Stern sidekick Robin Quivers is ready to jump from behind the microphone to in front of the camera. She's discussing heading up a syndicated talk show for daytime TV with Sony Pictures Television, according to the company.



Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

HAVE YOURSELF A CHEESY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

Is it that time already? On **KELLY, RUBEN & FANTASIA: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS** (Wed. 9 p.m., Fox), the three "American Idol" winners perform holiday songs. While it would be nice to see Clay Aiken show up as an elf, there's no truth to the rumor that Simon Cowell will play the Grinch.

LADIES, HAVE SOME DIGNITY

How many roses have to die for the two-hour **BACHELOR** finale (Wed., 8 p.m., ABC)? This dating-reality show jumped the shark at Trista and Ryan's absurd wedding. Gluttons for punishment will enjoy **THE BACHELOR: AFTER THE**



ABC

FINAL ROSE (10 p.m.).

THE GRAVY IS POSSESSED!

Nothing says "Thanksgiving" like ectoplasmic disturbances. The Sci-Fi Channel offers a heaping holiday helping of its documentary series **GHOST HUNTERS** on Wednesday from 7 p.m. to midnight.

RE-LIVE THE MEMORIES; BUY THE DVD SET

Jerry Seinfeld and co-producer Larry David look back on **THE SEINFELD STORY** (Thu., 10 p.m., NBC). Seinfeld and David revisit a Manhattan deli where they realized that they could create, or at least

THORNY DILEMMA:

Women vie for this greasy guy.

propose, a comedy series revolving around their pointless banter. A show about nothing, if you will. Cast members Jason Alexander, Michael Richards and Julia Louis-Dreyfus also appear, but in separate segments, so this is not an official cast reunion. But it is must-see TV for fans of the series.

HEY, ALPO AIN'T FREE

The cast members from "Seinfeld" aren't the only stars of a bygone NBC comedy to appear. Look for Eddie, the Jack Russell terrier star of "Frasier," to appear on **THE NATIONAL DOG SHOW** (Thu., noon, NBC).

WHAT DID WE SPEND IT ALL ON?

Hey, waiter, there's a hair band in my soup! Dee Snider hosts a holiday dinner at New York's Hard Rock Cafe on **A VERY CLASSIC THANKSGIVING** (Thu., 7 p.m., VH1 Classics). He's invited some other, uh, music-industry veterans along, including MC Hammer, Lisa Lisa, Eddie Money and Davy Jones, to

reminisce about their golden years.

VOICES RAISED

AMERICA'S CHOIR: THE STORY OF THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR (Thu., 9 p.m., PBS). The film follows the 150-year-old musical institution over two years on tour in a dozen concerts. The choir's all-volunteer members must master a repertoire of more than 1,400 songs, encompassing sacred works, American standards and folk songs from around the globe.

CO-STARRING TURKEY GALORE

Do you prefer your cranberry sauce shaken and not stirred? Spike offers a daylong James Bond marathon, beginning with **THUNDERBALL** (Thu., 9 a.m.).

SO IT BEGINS

A CHRISTMAS STORY (Thu., 5 p.m., TNT) Ralphie (Peter Billingsley) dreams of an air rifle under the Christmas tree in the first, but hardly the last, airing of the 1983 holiday favorite.



PLEASE, MR. SANTA: Ralphie (Peter Billingsley) really wants that air rifle.

HOLIDAY BUZZKILL

DR. SEUSS' HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (Thu., 8:30 p.m., ABC) Jim Carrey mugs ceaselessly in this big-screen adaptation of the children's classic, directed by Ron Howard. **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

11.24.04		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC	4	News		NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Tim McGraw: Here and Now (N)	The West Wing "The Dover Test" (N)	Law & Order "All in the Family" (N)	News	Friends	The Tonight Show		
	WTTG	5	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Friends	Seinfeld	That '70s Show	Quintuplets (N)	Kelly, Ruben & Fantasia: Christmas		Friends	Drew Carey		
	WJLA	7	News	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (Season Finale) (N)		(:02) The Bachelor (N)	News	(:35) Nightline			
	WUSA	9	News	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	60 Minutes (N)	King of Queens	Center-Univ	CSI: NY (N)	News	(:35) Late Show		
	WDCA	20	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	America's Next Top Model (N)	Kevin Hill "Going for the Juggler" (N)	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Every-Raymond	Dharma & Greg		
	WMPT	22	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Artworks-Week	Queen Victoria: Secrets of a Queen	Regency House Party (N)	Regency House Party (N)	Queen and Country			Antiques Road		
	WETA	26	BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Sandwiches That You Will Like	Secrets of the Pharaohs: Mummy	Regency House Party (N)	Regency House Party (N)			Charlie Rose (N)		
	WHUT	32	At Howard		BBC World News	MoneyWise	Les Brown: It's In Your Hands	Maya Angelou	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)			
	WBDC	50	The Parkers	Steve Harvey	The Parkers	Steve Harvey	★ ★ "A Walk to Remember" (2002) Shane West. Premiere.		Will & Grace	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	Blind Date (N)		
BASIC CABLE	A&E		City Confidential		American Justice		American Justice "Love Triangle" (N)	Family Plots	Airline	Biography: Carroll O'Connor	Crossing Jordan "Secrets & Lies"			
	Animal		The Crocodile Hunter		Most Extreme: Builders		The Jeff Corwin Experience	Animal Face-Off		Miami Animal Police	The Jeff Corwin Experience			
	BET		106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Destiny's Child.	Holiday Wish		The Parkers	Girlfriends	Coming to the Stage	Comicview	BET Nightly News	How I'm Living		
	Bravo		(4:30) ★ ★ ★ "Waiting to Exhale"	The West Wing "Gone Quiet"			The 100 Greatest TV Characters	The 100 Greatest TV Characters (N)	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy		The West Wing "Gone Quiet"			
	Comedy		Straight Plan for the Gay Man	The Daily Show	Mad TV	Crank Yankers	Reno 911!	South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	The Daily Show	South Park		
	Court		NYPD Blue "Brothers Under Arms"	Cops	Cops	The Investigators "Trail of Clues"	Forensic Files	Psychic Detect	The Investigators		Caught	Masterminds		
	Discovery		American Chopper "Liberty Bike 2"	Monster Nation (N)		Alexander the Great: Unsolved	MythBusters "Myths Revisited"	Great Biker Build-Off		Alexander the Great: Unsolved				
	DISCH		Chicago Hope "Tantric Turkey"	Trauma: Life in the ER		Plastic Surgery: New York Style	Plastic Surgery: Before and After	Berman & Berman Oral sex.		Plastic Surgery: New York Style				
	Disney		Even Stevens	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister	That's So Raven	★ ★ ★ "The Lion King 11/2" (2004) Ernie Sabella		★ ★ ★ "The Lion King 11/2" (2004) Ernie Sabella	Even Stevens	Boy Meets World			
	E!		Hotspot	Diary of an Affair	E! News (N)	It's Good to Be	Apprentice: True Hollywood Story	La Toya Jackson: THS	Jackie Collins Presents "Scandalous"	Howard Stern	Howard Stern			
	FX		Fear Factor	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	★ ★ "Shallow Hal" (2001, Comedy) Gwyneth Paltrow. A lumpen Lothario now only sees a fat woman's inner beauty.			Fear Factor					
	HGTV		Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Renovation	Bldg. Character	Sensible Chic	Mission: Orgnz	Curb Appeal	Painted House	Dream House (N)	
	Family		7th Heaven "Stand Up"	Smallville "Rosetta"		★ ★ ★ "Stuart Little" (1999, Comedy) Geena Davis, Hugh Laurie.		Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club				
	History		Modern Marvels	Home for the Holidays	Modern Marvels "Movie Theaters" (N)	Full Throttle 1975 Pontiac Firebird.	Modern Marvels "Bathroom Tech"		Ancient Monster Hunters					
	Lifetime		(5:00) ★ ★ "Home for the Holidays"	★ ★ "The Autumn Heart" (1999, Drama)	Tyne Daly, Ally Sheedy.	"The Alibi" (1997, Drama) Tori Spelling, Jason Brooks, Michael Tucker.		The Nanny	The Golden Girls					
	MTV		Boiling Points	Boiling Points	The Real World	The Real World	Famous Face	Famous Face	Famous Face	Famous Face	Famous Face	Famous Face		
	NICK		U-Pick Live	U-Pick Live	U-Pick Live	U-Pick Live	U-Pick Live	U-Pick Live	Full House	Full House	Fresh Prince	The Cosby Show	Roseanne	Roseanne
	SCI FI		Stargate SG-1 "Crossroads"	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	
	SPIKE		World's Wildest Police Videos	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	The Club "Office Politics" (N)	★★★★ "Goldfinger" (1964, Adventure)	Sean Connery, Gert Frobe.	(:10) He's a Lady Winner selected.					
	TBS		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Sex and the City	Sex and the City	(:10) He's a Lady Winner selected.	
TLC		Clean Sweep "Cure for Clutter"	In a Fix "Par Le Floor"	Monster House	In a Fix "Arabian Nights"	Taking Care of Business (N)	Monster House							
TNT		Golf: PGA Grand Slam of Golf	Law & Order "Family Business"	Law & Order "Foul Play"	★ ★ "The Wool Cap" (2004, Drama) William H. Macy, Don Rickles.	★ ★ "The Wool Cap" (2004)								
USA		JAG "The One That Got Away"	JAG "Clipped Wings"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		
VHI		100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"	100 Hottest Hotties "80-61"		
SPAN.	TELEM	Corte-Pueblo	Noti-Telemndo	Anita No Te Rajes	Prisionera	Gitanas	Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer	Noticiero Tel.	Laura	Noticiero Tel.	Laura			
	UNIV	Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera	Rubi	Amor Real	Don Francisco Presenta	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.			
SPORTS	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Cleveland Cavaliers. From Gund Arena in Cleveland.	College Basketball Maui Invitational Final -- Teams TBA. From Maui, Hawaii.	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter			
	ESPN2	Basketball	NFL Live	College Basketball Preseason NIT Semifinal -- Providence vs. Wake Forest.	College Basketball Preseason NIT Semifinal -- Arizona vs. Michigan. (Live)	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball	Basketball			
	CSN	I, Max (N)	SportsNite	Beyond the Glory	College Basketball Appalachian State at Virginia. (Live)	SportsNite (Live)	Ralph Friedgen	Best-Sports						
NEWS	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Anderson Cooper 360	Paula Zahn Now	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Lou Dobbs Tonight			
	FNC	Special Report (Live)	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (Live)	Hannity & Colmes (Live)	On the Record-Van Susteren	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor			
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report (Live)	Hardball (Live)	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Scarborough Country (Live)	Hardball	Hardball	Hardball	Hardball	Hardball			
MOVIES	AMC	★ ★ "Girls! Girls! Girls!" (1962, Musical) Elvis Presley. 'PG'	★ ★ ★ "Blue Hawaii" (1962, Musical) Elvis Presley, Joan Blackman. 'PG'	★ ★ "Lone Star" (1952, Western) Clark Gable. 'NR'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'	★ ★ "Paradise, Hawaiian Style" 'G'			
	TCM	(:15) ★ ★ ★ ★ "A Night at the Opera" (1935) The Marx Brothers. 'NR'	★ ★ "Across the Wide Missouri" (1951) Clark Gable.	★ ★ "Lone Star" (1952, Western) Clark Gable. 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "The Misfits" (1961) 'NR'			
	HBO	(5:30) Real Sports	★ ★ ★ "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" (2003) Russell Crowe. 'PG-13'	The Wire "Slapstick"	Inside the NFL (N)	Family Bonds	Aileen: Life and...	Family Bonds	Aileen: Life and...	Family Bonds	Aileen: Life and...			
	MAX	★ ★ ★ "X2: X-Men United" (2003) Patrick Stewart. 'PG-13'	(:15) ★ ★ ★ "Married to the Mob" (1988, Comedy) Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	★ ★ "Stuck on You" (2003, Comedy) Matt Damon. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'			
	SHOW	(5:00) Rocky V	(45) SHO Me First	★ ★ ★ "Another Stakeout" (1993) Richard Dreyfuss. iTV. 'PG-13'	HUFF Huff deals with the legal fallout.	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'	★ ★ "Phoenix" (1998, Drama) Ray Liotta, Anjelica Huston. iTV. 'R'			
	TMC	★ ★ "Enigma" (2001, Suspense) Dougray Scott, Kate Winslet. 'R'	★ ★ "They" (2002, Horror) Laura Regan. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'	★ ★ "Bowling for Columbine" (2002, Documentary) 'R'			
	STARZ!	(:15) On the Set	(:35) ★ ★ ★ "Tin Cup" (1996, Comedy-Drama) Kevin Costner, Rene Russo. 'R'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'	★ ★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker, Tyrese. 'PG-13'			
ENCORE	(5:00) ★ ★ "The Recruit" (2003)	The Directors Oliver Stone. 'PG'	★ ★ ★ "Platoon" (1986, Drama) Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'	(:05) ★ ★ "Scarface" (1983, Drama) Al Pacino, Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'				

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Entertainment

The famed big-box store is increasingly parodied in TV shows

Companies pay big bucks to get mentioned on TV shows. But Wal-Mart Stores Inc. could live without much of the free publicity it gets.

In recent weeks, a Wal-Mart look-alike played a prominent role in CBS' crime drama "Without a Trace." "Every Mart" was the employer of a single mother who didn't qualify for health benefits and whose wages were so meager she had to deal drugs to pay for her son's hearing aid. The writers dressed workers in Wal-Mart's trademark blue smocks.

This month, Comedy Central's cartoon "South Park" built an entire episode around a "Wall-Mart" coming to town. The new arrival turns the town folk into consumer zombies lured by cheap prices to buy massive quantities of products they don't need. It also turns Main Street

into a bombed-out ghost town.

Wal-Mart served as a familiar model in Fox's cartoon "King of the Hill." "Megalo Mart" is the merciless competitor of the small, neighborhood store where Hank Hill sells propane and propane accessories.

"King of the Hill" focuses on the frustrations of dealing with the giant stores — pushing carts



RETAIL RAILLERY: In the TV series "South Park," a "Wall-Mart" destroys Main Street.

Mocking Wal-Mart

for vast distances with scant assistance from clueless sales clerks, said John Altschuler, an executive producer of the show.

"Without a Trace" set out to write another kind of social commentary. Hank Steinberg, the show's executive producer, said he wanted the plot to address "corporate America in general being about their bottom line and not about protecting their workers."

Comedy Central's "The Daily

Show" recently noted that Wal-Mart opened a store near ancient ruins in Mexico — "the first time the chain moved into a community that was already in ruins."

Wal-Mart is pummeling the culture with an alternative vision of itself, with a recent barrage of commercials touting itself as a good place to work and a beneficent community citizen.

According to research firms Harris Interactive Inc. and the

Reputation Institute, Wal-Mart fell five notches to 28th place in this year's ranking of corporate reputations. Respondents said they didn't buy the image Wal-Mart projected in its ads.

Wal-Mart is one of the biggest spenders on television, plunking down more than \$500 million on network TV last year and almost \$340 million so far this year, according to Nielsen Monitor-Plus.

ANN ZIMMERMAN (WALL STREET JOURNAL)

Wal-Mart's store next to ancient Mexican ruins was "the first time the chain moved into a community that was already in ruins."

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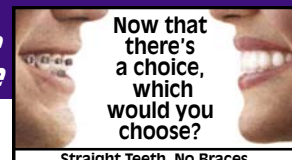
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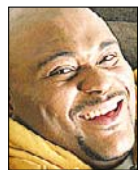
LOOK out

People

HAZARDS

Surgeon General Cautions Celebrities to Stop Working

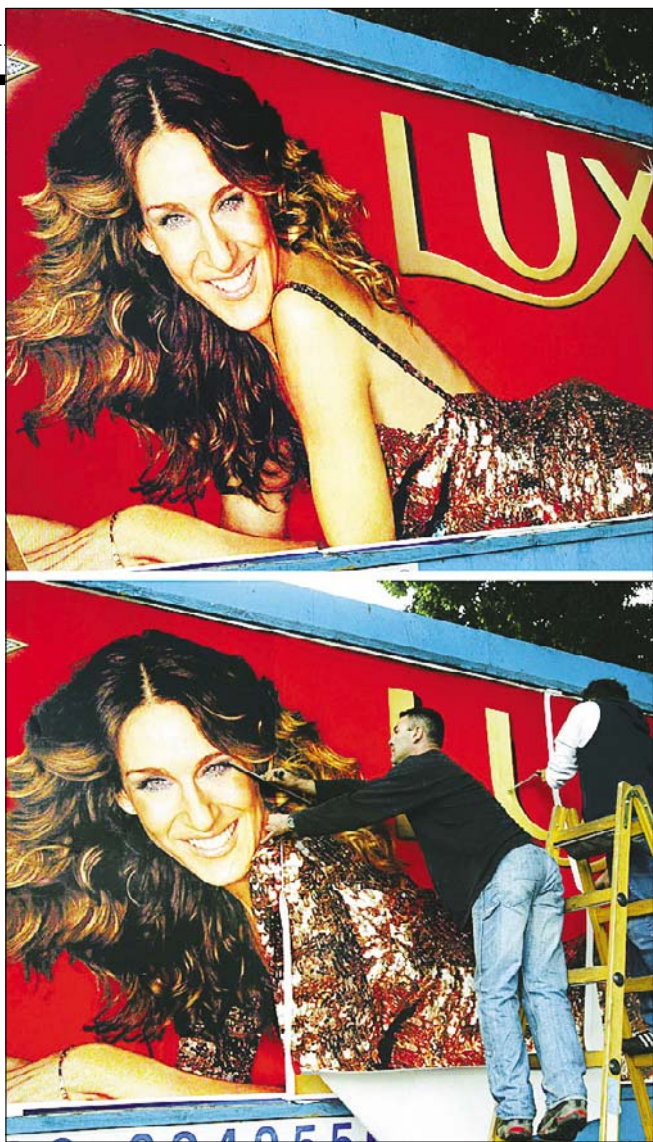
First Lindsay Lohan. Then Vincent D'Onofrio. Now "American Idol" champ **RUBEN STUDDARD** has been hospitalized with exhaustion — just as his new album, "I Need an Angel," hits stores. Studdard, 26, was in his hometown of Birmingham, Ala., Monday night when he fell ill, said a spokeswoman. Exhaustion was to blame, although more tests were due to be performed, she said Tuesday. Studdard "will likely remain in the hospital through the end of the week. All promotion for his new album this week has been canceled." (AP)



JACKSONS

You Know, We Haven't Heard From Tito in a While

JERMAINE JACKSON, older brother of Michael Jackson, has filed for divorce from his wife of nine years. The Los Angeles Superior Court divorce petition, filed Nov. 19, to dissolve the marriage of Jermaine and Alejandra Jackson asks that their children — Jaafar, 8, and Jermajesty, 4 — live with their mother in suburban Encino. The couple were married on March 18, 1995, and separated on Nov. 15. The court document cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the split. (AP)



SCANDAL

Too Sexy for Israel

Ultra-Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem demanded that billboards featuring a scantily clad **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** be rendered more modest, Reuters reported Tuesday. The ads promote Unilever's Lux soap. One rabbi warned that the religious community would boycott the brand. The ads were almost immediately replaced with a version showing Parker in long sleeves. "We decided to make her dress more suitable for the winter weather," said a Unilever marketing manager. (EXPRESS)



A sapphire known as "the Swimming Pool" was stolen.

LITIGATION

Never Injure a Balding Man in the Forehead

BRUCE WILLIS has filed a negligence lawsuit in Los Angeles against Revolution Studios for injuries allegedly suffered during the filming of "Tears of the Sun." The Oct. 20 suit claims the actor suffered "extreme mental, physical and emotional pain and suffering" during the October 2002 accident in which he was struck in the forehead by a "projectile" after special effects personnel detonated pyrotechnic devices intended to "simulate the appearance of bullets striking the ground." The complaint doesn't seek specific monetary damages. (AP)



CRIME

Osbournes Take a Stand Against Jewelry Theft

OSZY and **SHARON OSBOURNE** spoke out Tuesday after a burglar stole jewelry from their English country mansion. The thief, who was unsuccessfully tackled by Ozzy, made off with wedding rings, a 24-carat sapphire and more. "I'm sure a lot of people will ... say, 'Well, they have got more, they can buy it again,' Sharon said. But "everything we have got we have worked our [expletive] off for." (AP)



What's more embarrassing: Hustler or this outfit?

PR

The Paris Hilton Media Machine Makes Next Move

Photographs of **PARIS HILTON** making out with a woman at a nightclub have provided a new venue — Hustler magazine — for the heiress. Eight pictures, which are from about 2002, show Hilton cavorting with a brunette at a nightclub. Bruce David, Hustler's editorial director, said the photos will likely hit newsstands at the end of February. "It's a hot, passionate serious make-out session," David said. "It does not appear to be two girls kidding around or two girls kissing each other hello. It seems to be pretty hot and pretty heavy." (AP)



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1963

On Nov. 24, Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, on live television; also, in 1859, Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," explaining his theory of evolution.

Dynamic Duos | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

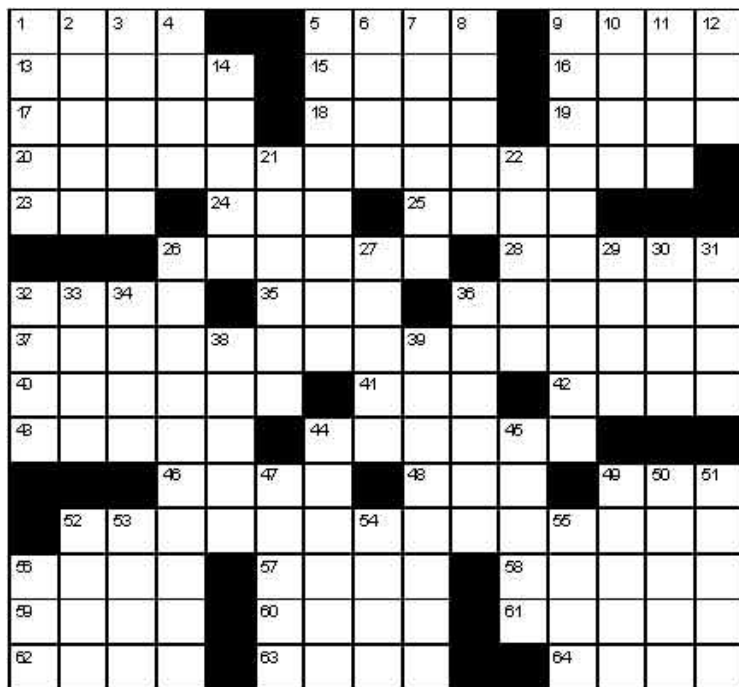
ACROSS

1 Per person
5 Bowler's edge
9 Some elephants or whales
13 Staff leader?
15 Shake off, as a shadow
16 Aahs'
go-withs
17 Asteroids maker
18 "Amo, amas,"
19 Big guns
20 One of two involved with rackets
23 "Modern Maturity" audience, briefly
24 It does a bang-up job
25 Mackinaw, for one
26 Hurts like heck
28 Ski resort fixtures
32 "To Live and Die ____"
35 Four-kind connector
36 Second smallest Teletubby
37 Cut-ups in sewing class
40 Type of play
41 100 percent
42 "Take ____ a compliment"
43 "Hawaii Five-O" nickname
44 Irrigation device
46 Driver's hello, maybe
48 Bering or Formosa (Abbr.)

49 Unfeeling fellow
52 Counseling for some terrible twos?
56 Bobbysoxer, for one
57 Unusual shoe spec
58 Contour feather
59 Gillette product
60 Polish border river
61 Suffix for open or rear
62 Pickle, so to speak
63 Armenia and Georgia, once (Abbr.)
64 "____ I say, not ..."

DOWN

1 Cry from Jeeves
2 One with parts
3 Name on seasonal mail
4 Food seasoning
5 Rocket launching
6 Effortless win
7 "Almost Paradise" author
8 Urban newspaper section
9 Legendary bandleader
10 Exude slowly
11 Vibratory sound
12 Sound at a fish fry
14 Chimney sweep's take
21 Implant securely
22 Socialites' signoffs
26 Some "creepy"



Halloween decorations
27 ____ metabolism rate
29 Tons
30 ____ avis
31 Fresh talk
32 Apple for an audiophile
33 "Peter Pan" pooch
34 Bank claim
36 Frier's ex-wife
38 Inside story
39 Close groups of stars
44 Horse farm

sights
45 French pancake
47 Refrigerator sticks
49 Confident, as an attitude
50 Breathing anomaly
51 Duos, dynamic or not
52 Quote as an authority
53 Benjamin and Bobby
54 Fortune hunter?
55 Tear apart
56 Shapely leg, in slang

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It's not for you to play the class clown; there are certain serious issues that no one will embrace if you don't introduce them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can parlay a passing fancy into a profit — if not today, then certainly in the days to come. All you have to do is concentrate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) A teacher or guide from your past will return, if only in your memory, to remind you of an important lesson not to neglect.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) There may be more to life than making other people laugh, but there will be little that is more highly valued — at least in you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You're likely to find fascinating many of those things that other people take for granted. Today, your perceptions are sure to change.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Remember the saying if it isn't broken, don't fix it. And apply it to your own endeavors today. You may be meddling where you needn't.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Concentrate on the little things today, and you'll enjoy the response you get from others who end up paying you a great deal of attention.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You can find a bargain today, and you're not going to

want to let it pass you by. Can you talk someone else into spending with you?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Something you value highly today will be completely ignored by others — but because of you it may well take a place in your own history.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll learn something you never knew if you'll only ask someone a simple question or two. You'll win respect even from the experts.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Someone will grab your attention today and not let it go for some time. It is better to be on stage than in the audience, wouldn't you take part?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It's important to touch someone and give of yourself freely today; if you don't, you'll miss out on an important personal lesson.

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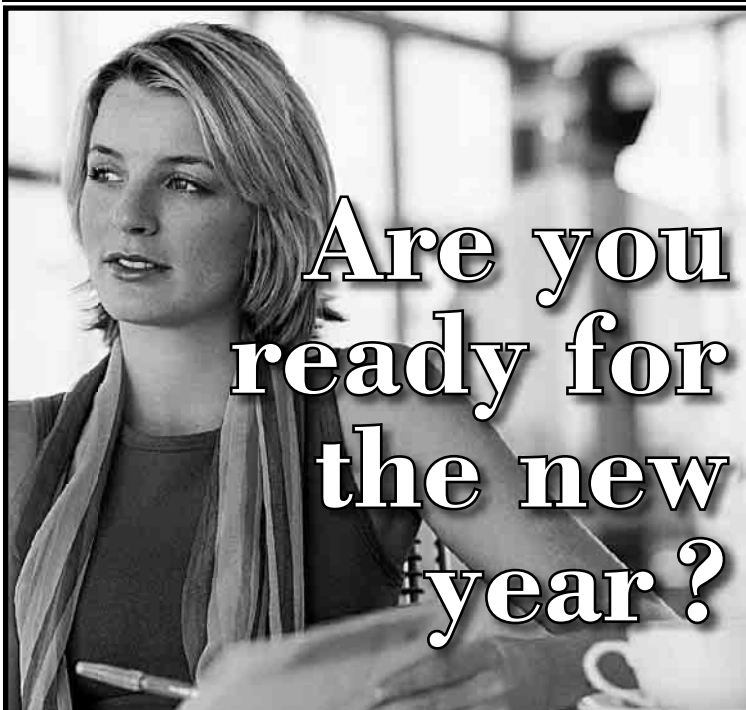
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